incentivise States to invest and re-orient the current agricultural development strategies. In addition, the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for wheat has also been enhanced to Rs. 1,000/- per quintal for Rabi marketing season 2008-09 to encourage the farmers to grow more wheat for Paddy, the MSP has been fixed at Rs.850/- and Rs.880/- per quintal for Common and Grade-A varieties, respectively for kharif marketing season 2008-09 with the similar objectives. Further, while imposing a ban on Wheat and non-Basmati Rice export and permitting Wheat and Rice import at zero duty, the gap between demand and supply is contained.

**Discontinuation of import of semen for betterment of the breed of animals**

†1255. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the import of semen for betterment of the breed of animals has been discontinued; and

(b) if so, from which date and reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Steps for quality crops and protection from weeds**

†1256. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crops grown in farms are found to be wanting in nutritious elements and also whether weeds are detrimental to both the crops and the health;

(b the effective steps being taken by Government for quality crops and protection from weeds; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Plan to increase milk production**

1257.DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to launch a National Dairy Plan to increase milk production to reach a level of 160 to 180 million tons by 2021;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether a national conference of State Ministers of Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development was held at New Delhi in the month of September this year;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi